

that neighborhood persons could acquire clothing and shoes. She attended school in Rio Grande City and graduated in the top ten percent of her class from the city's high school in 1939. She continued working in Galindo's grocery store until her marriage to Nicolas Silva, Jr. in 1947. The couple had two daughters and owned and operated a Texaco Service Station, where she served as the bookkeeper.

Mrs. Silva worked for Rio Grande City Independent School District as a teacher's aide in their pre-school department and continued to teach once the program was annexed by Headstart. She served on the South Texas Development Council until she retired at age 80, after 32 years of service. Throughout her career, she volunteered for her neighborhood's 4-H Youth Development Organization and frequently acted as judge in the program's float and craft competitions. Her dedication to children inspired her two daughters to emulate their mother's passion and attain masters degrees in Education.

In addition to her passion for children, Mrs. Silva was an avid arrowhead hunter—a passion her husband and children all enjoyed. The family has maintained, arguably, the largest personal collection in Texas, which was exhibited in the family's business. She is a faithful member of Immaculate Conception Church, and continues to dedicate her time to children, including her 4 grandchildren, 7 great-grandchildren, and others in her community. She is the beloved matriarch of her family and is sought for advice and guidance to her friends, family, and former students.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged to have the opportunity to recognize the extraordinary commitment to education and the community exhibited by Mrs. Hortensia G. Silva, and I wish her the happiest of birthdays.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS H. DAVIS
JR.—RETIREMENT FROM COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION OF SOUTH
ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the work of Thomas Davis Jr., a respected leader in his field and an outstanding citizen of Mobile, Alabama.

Mr. Davis recently retired as President and CEO of the nonprofit Community Foundation of South Alabama, an organization which has flourished under his guidance over the past 27 years. Beginning as the program's development director in 1984, Tom quickly rose to become its executive director in 1985 and went on to become the president of the foundation in 2008.

Under his direction, the foundation's assets increased from \$3 million to over \$50 million. Even more impressive is the growth of the foundation's charitable funds and endowments. By the time he left office, this number had gone from 60 funds and endowments to over 400.

Mr. Davis' success is the product of hard work, an exceptional work ethic and an unparalleled ability to lead, which proved handy during his oversight of foundation programs that

provided assistance to earthquake and tsunami victims in Japan as well as those recently affected by the Gulf oil spill. He was also instrumental in obtaining health insurance for local underprivileged children.

It would be a hard task to designate one of his many achievements as being his greatest, for Tom accomplished so much throughout his tenure. However, the nonprofit's recognition as a "Partnership to Build Community Capital" by the Kresge Foundation is a distinct honor, placing the Community Foundation of South Alabama in an elite group of which there are only six such programs nationally.

On behalf of the people of Mobile, I want to thank Tom Davis for his service and wish him—and his family—continued success in the years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO MRS. KATHLEEN
BATEMAN

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great Kentuckian, Mrs. Kathleen Bateman. After 33 years of teaching, Mrs. Bateman will retire leaving behind a legacy of dedication to her students and her community.

Mrs. Bateman graduated from Murray State University in 1977 with a Bachelor of Arts in Education and earned her Master's in Counseling from Western Kentucky University in 1986. She obtained her Rank I in Art through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in 1990.

Mrs. Bateman's most recent position was at East Hardin Middle School, but she has touched the lives of countless students throughout her career while teaching at several elementary and middle schools in the Commonwealth.

A great teacher has the power to affect students throughout their academic journey, opening new horizons and starting them on a positive path with high expectations for the future.

Mrs. Bateman did just that with the unwavering commitment she gave her students. It takes a special person and a tremendous level of perseverance to be an educator—qualities that Ms. Bateman exuded throughout her years of hard work.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mrs. Kathleen Bateman for her many great contributions to the Commonwealth of Kentucky and for contributing to the success of many young people in our community.

INTRODUCING THE "SALMON
SOLUTIONS AND PLANNING ACT"

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, salmon are one of America's most precious but delicate resources. Since the construction of four Federal dams on the lower Snake River in Washington State, certain salmon species have become extinct. Others continue to see drastic

declines in number. Today, thirteen salmon and steelhead species in the Columbia and Snake River Basin are listed for protection under the Endangered Species Act. If we do not act now, we stand to lose this valuable resource forever, which is why I am reintroducing the Salmon Solutions Planning Act.

Salmon and steelhead populations have major economic, environmental and cultural significance to the Pacific Northwest. Generations of fishermen have relied on salmon as an integral part of their communities along the west coast. Today, even at their current depressed levels, salmon add hundreds of millions of dollars to the American economy and remain an essential part of communities around the Northwest. If we restore these populations to their original levels their economic benefits will reach well into the billions and these communities will be able to continue their rich traditions.

Already we recognize the importance of preserving this precious resource. The Federal Government and ratepayers in the Pacific Northwest have spent more than \$10 billion in salmon recovery efforts on the Columbia and Snake River Basin. These efforts, while commendable, have done little to help salmon populations recover. This legislation commissions studies to focus our efforts so that all factors are taken into account when considering removal. It is critical that our salmon recovery efforts be informed, cost effective, and successful.

Without action, scientists estimate that several of the salmon populations could be extinct in less than 20 years. The time to act is now. Salmon are the lifeblood of the Pacific Northwest, and we, as a country, cannot afford to lose this national treasure.

CONGRATULATING NORB ASCHOM
FOR EXCELLENCE IN RADIO
BROADCASTING

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Norb Aschom for 50 years of excellence in radio broadcasting. Norb has been news director of WPRE-AM and WQPC-FM radio stations since 1962. Throughout his time at the station, Norb has served a critical role by providing this tight knit town with the news each day, installing a sense of community through the airwaves.

Norb is a fixture in the Prairie du Chien community, a town in southwestern Wisconsin on the banks of the Mississippi River. At 71 years of age, Norb has worked in the same building every day for 50 years. While his broadcasting home on St. Feriole Island in Prairie du Chien was recently flooded, he was forced, along with the rest of the station staff, out of their office and into a temporary workspace in the local Police Department. After a two week hiatus, Norb was able to return to his normal office on April 23. Throughout his time working out of the police department he never veered from his commitment to bring the news to the people of Prairie du Chien.

In his 50 years, Norb has interviewed everyone from former First Ladies Johnson and Carter, to fellow radio personality Paul Harvey.

He has covered every major local event including the record floods of 1965, the 1981 closing of the Hwy. 18 bridge and the flooding of more recent years. Norb embodies what every rural community needs, a friendly and thoughtful voice to bring them the events of the day.

With no plans to retire anytime soon, Norb plans to continue making a difference in the lives of the residents of Prairie du Chien. I am proud to know Norb and believe that his work not only impacts his community but serves as an example to the rest of the country.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF
HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2017) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I rise today in opposition to the Fiscal Year 2012 Homeland Security appropriations bill, H.R. 2017 brought to the House floor by the Republican majority.

The problems with H.R. 2017 began even before the legislation was considered by the House. The rule to allow debate on H.R. 2017 enacts the House Republican's highly controversial budget plan to end Medicare as we know it. I voted with every Democratic Member of the House to oppose this rule—H. Res. 287—and to protect tomorrow's seniors from being forced to pay an average of \$6,000 in additional health care costs every year. My Republican colleagues should be admonished for their decision to begin debate on a bill intended to safeguard American citizens with a rule that undermines the health and economic security of every American senior.

The Fiscal Year 2012 Homeland Security appropriations measure fails to meet the public safety needs of communities in Minnesota and across the country. H.R. 2017 undermines support for our local law enforcement partners by slashing funding for firefighter assistance grants and State Homeland Security Grants, which are used primarily for training and equipping first responders. The International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) said of the legislation: "At a time when state and local public safety budgets are shrinking, it is unconscionable to implement cuts of this magnitude." The National Association of Counties is opposing H.R. 2017, arguing that reductions in critical grant programs cripple the ability of communities of all sizes to prepare for a range of threats, including potential nuclear, chemical, and biological attacks.

Moreover, H.R. 2017 does not include sufficient funding for transit agencies to hire additional law enforcement officers, acquire bomb sniffing dogs, or install explosive screening devices. Funding to states and localities to secure sensitive tunnels and bridges and install surveillance systems in other high-risk areas is significantly reduced. This bill does not provide

sufficient funds to protect harbors from terrorist threats or train maritime law enforcement personnel to safeguard U.S. ports.

Even, however, with cuts this extreme, the Republicans fund discredited projects. The notorious "287(g)" program founded by the Bush administration, and abused by such anti-immigrant zealots as Arizona Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio had its funding increased by millions of dollars. Sheriff Arpaio is under investigation for discrimination and illegal searches and seizures during his so-called "immigration sweeps" using the 287(g) program.

This bill undercuts federal partnerships with local law enforcement and reduces America's capacity to respond to natural disasters, criminal actions and potential terrorist attacks. And the rule for this bill forces enactment of a reckless Republican budget that breaks faith with America's seniors and forces unnecessary cuts to education, innovation and infrastructure to pay for another tax cut for the wealthiest Americans. I will vote no on H.R. 2017 and urge my colleagues to do the same.

IN RECOGNITION OF EDDIE PALMIERI, THE DC JAZZ FESTIVAL'S LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT AND FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN JAZZ

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 3, 2011

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a distinguished American, Mr. Eddie Palmieri, the recipient of this year's District of Columbia's Jazz Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Palmieri, renowned for his unique fusion of Jazz and Latin rhythms, has blazed many trails in his remarkable career. "El Rumbero del Piano," a title which reflects his magic on the piano, has earned his place among the great ones for his dedication to Jazz and the cultivation of its creative soul.

Having grown up in Spanish Harlem to Puerto Rican parents, Latin beats were a part of Eddie Palmieri's life from an early age. He began his lifelong passion for creating music at the tender age of eight. By age thirteen, Eddie had joined his uncle's orchestra playing the timbales. From his early exposure to the music instruments of the South Bronx, was borne the beautiful medley of Jazz and Latin music that is now firmly weaved into American life.

A musical trailblazer, Eddie Palmieri received the first of what would be numerous Grammys in 1975 for the recording "The Sun of Latin Music"—marking the very first time in the history of the Grammys that the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences recognized Latin music. In 1988, the Smithsonian Institution recorded two of Mr. Palmieri's energetic performances for the catalog of the National Museum of American History in Washington, DC. In a sign of changing times, in 1993, he was appointed to the Board of Governors of the New York chapter of National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences.

Twenty years after placing Latin music on the Grammys map, Eddie once again char-

tered new territory, opening the door for the new category of Latin Jazz. More recently, in 2009, his widely popular composition "Azucar Pa' Ti" was inducted into the National Recording Registry of the United States Library of Congress as a significant and compelling American sound recording. Mr. Palmieri shares this honor of induction into the National Recording Registry with other titans of American music like The Band, Willie Nelson, Loretta Lynn, The Staple Singers, Patti Smith, Cliff Edwards, Little Richard and R.E.M.

A nine-time Grammy Award winner with a musical career spanning more than 50 years and 36 recordings, Mr. Eddie Palmieri is an inspirational pianist, composer, arranger, and a celebrated leader of Salsa and Latin Jazz orchestras. For his numerous contributions to the American musical landscape, but more for his brilliant work in introducing the world to the rhythms of Latin Jazz, I ask that the House of Representatives honor and commend El Rumbero del Piano for a lifetime of achievement.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF
HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 1, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2017) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the FY12 Homeland Security Appropriations Act.

The bill makes severe cuts to the funding available to front line employees of the Department of Homeland Security for critical operations along our borders, at our nation's airports and seaports, and for responding to natural disasters. The bill also reduces funding for state and local preparedness grant programs.

The bill provides a total of \$1 billion for all State and local grants and \$350 million for Firefighter Assistance Grants. Respectively, these figures are 65 percent and 50 percent below an already reduced request. Given the budgetary challenges already faced by our states, these cuts, if permitted to survive through the legislative process, could be devastating. According to the International Association of Fire Fighters, 1,600 fewer local firefighters will be on the job if the cuts in this bill are enacted into law. Such deep cuts will damage local preparedness, emergency response and the economic recovery.

I was happy to vote for an amendment offered by Ranking Member PRICE that permits states and local governments to rehire laid-off firefighters and to prevent others from being laid off. The amendment also waives certain budgetary requirements local fire departments have to fulfill to qualify for a grant. But, even with the addition of this important amendment, I cannot support a Homeland Security funding bill that ultimately makes the homeland less secure.